

what to do. His sponsorship of a project not only insures its success but also marks it as a project in the public interest. This qualifies him as a medical statesman. He has shown constant support and enthusiasm for young physicians and perhaps most of all faith in America and his fellow physicians and pride in his chosen profession of medicine. As speaker of the House of Delegates of the A.M.A. he has proved himself honest, sincere, fair, friendly, dignified and the possessor of unusually good judgment. At the proper moments he has not been one to sit back passively but has proven himself to be a fighter for his and medicine's rights. A diplomat as well as an expert in parliamentary procedure, he has been in the judgment of many members of the

House the best speaker of the House of Delegates of the A.M.A. in modern times.

As a person Vince has shown himself to be a good husband, a good father and friend and to possess all those qualities that mark the true physician. American medicine can look to and be proud of the leadership he will provide with his personal qualities, his experience of importance in medical societies and his understanding of the private practice of medicine.

Dr. Askey will be installed as president of the A.M.A. at the annual meeting in June, 1960 in Miami succeeding Dr. Louis M. Orr of Orlando, Florida. He will be the American Medical Association's 114th president since 1847.

Actions of the A.M.A. House of Delegates

This skimming and skipping report on the proceedings of the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association at the Atlantic City meeting covers only a few of the many important subjects dealt with by the House and is not intended as a detailed report on all actions taken.

THE REPORT of the A.M.A. Commission on Medical Care Plans, relations between medicine and osteopathy, the report of the Committee on Preparation for General Practice and the issue of compulsory Social Security coverage for self-employed physicians were among the major subjects which brought important policy actions by the House of Delegates at the American Medical Association's 108th annual meeting held June 8 to 12 in Atlantic City.

Another highlight of the meeting was the appearance of President Dwight D. Eisenhower, who addressed an overflow audience of more than 5,000 at the Tuesday night inauguration of Dr. Louis M. Orr of Orlando, Florida, as the 113th president of the A.M.A. It marked the first time that a President of the United States has addressed an A.M.A. annual or clinical meeting.

Dr. E. Vincent Askey of Los Angeles, speaker of the House of Delegates since 1955, was named president-elect for the coming year. Dr. Askey will succeed Dr. Orr as president at the association's annual meeting in June, 1960, in Miami Beach.

The 1959 Distinguished Service Award of the American Medical Association was voted to Dr. Michael E. DeBakey of Houston, chairman of the department of surgery at Baylor University College of Medicine, for his outstanding contributions in the field of cardiovascular surgery. Dr. DeBakey received the award at the Tuesday night inaugural ceremony.

Total registration through Thursday, with half a day of the meeting still remaining, had reached 28,225, including 12,921 physicians.

Eisenhower Address

President Eisenhower, speaking at the inaugural ceremony in the ballroom of Convention Hall, warned that inflation posed the greatest danger to the traditional, free enterprise practice of medicine. The cost of inflation, he said, "is not paid in dollars alone but in increasingly stagnated progress, lost opportunities, and eventually, if unchecked, in lost freedoms for the doctor and the patient." Mr. Eisenhower also expressed gratification at learning of A.M.A. leadership in the program to meet the health care needs of the aged.

Commission on Medical Care Plans

The House of Delegates received Part I of the report of the Commission on Medical Care Plans as information only and then acted upon the commission recommendations item by item. The House adopted 36 of the recommendations without change, but reworded three which relate to miscellaneous and unclassified plans. The changed recommendations now read as follows:

B-4. "In an effort to decrease, or at least to prevent an increase in, the over-all cost of health care, study should be given to the removal of the requirement of hospital admission as the only condition under which payment of certain benefits will be made."

B-6. "Medical care plans should be encouraged to increase their efforts to provide health education and information concerning the coverage of their subscribers."

B-16. "The American Medical Association be-

believes that free choice of physician is the right of every individual and one which he should be free to exercise as he chooses. Each individual should be accorded the privilege to select and change his physician at will or to select his preferred system of medical care and the American Medical Association vigorously supports the right of the individual to choose between these alternatives."

In connection with free choice of physician, the House also requested the Board of Trustees to transmit to all constituent medical associations the "far-reaching significance" of Recommendation A-7, which says:

"'Free choice of physician' is an important factor in the provision of good medical care. In order that the principle of 'free choice of physician' be maintained and be fully implemented, the medical profession should discharge more vigorously its self-imposed responsibility for assuring the competency of physicians' services and their provision at a cost which people can afford."

The House also strongly endorsed Recommendation B-11, which declares that "Those who receive medical care benefits as a result of collective bargaining should have the widest possible choice from among medical care plans for the provision of such care."

Many of the commission recommendations urged increased activity by state and county medical societies and the American Medical Association in such fields as continuing study and liaison, closer attention to legal and legislative factors, and the development of guides for the relationship between the medical profession and the various types of third parties. To carry out three of the recommendations involving A.M.A. activities, the House also approved a seven-point program which it requested the Board of Trustees to transmit to the Division of Socio-Economic Activities for immediate attention.

Medicine and Osteopathy

In considering a special report of the Judicial Council on the subject of osteopathy, the House adopted the following policy statement regarding interprofessional relations:

"(a) All voluntary professional associations between doctors of medicine and those who practice a system of healing not based on scientific principles are unethical.

"(b) Enactment of medical practice acts requiring all who practice as physicians and surgeons to meet the same qualifications, take the same examinations and graduate from schools approved by the same agency should be encouraged by the constituent associations.

"(c) It shall not be considered contrary to the Principles of Medical Ethics for doctors of medicine

to teach students in an osteopathic college which is in the process of being converted into an approved medical school under the supervision of the A.M.A. Council on Medical Education and Hospitals.

"(d) A liaison committee be appointed by the Board of Trustees of the American Medical Association to meet with representatives of the American Osteopathic Association, if mutually agreeable, to consider problems of common concern including interprofessional relationships on a national level."

In another action concerning osteopathy, the House recommended that the American Medical Association representatives on the Joint Commission Accreditation of Hospitals suggest to the Joint Commission that they inspect upon request and consider for accreditation without prejudice those hospitals required by law to admit osteopathic physicians to their staff.

Preparation for General Practice

The House approved and commended the final report of the Committee on Preparation for General Practice, which proposes a new two-year internship program for medical school graduates planning to become family physicians. To avoid unnecessary confusion, the House deleted only one sentence which read: "Indeed, the committee believes that the one-year internship actually encourages inadequate preparation for general practice." The Committee on Preparation for General Practice included representatives from the A.M.A. Council on Medical Education and Hospitals, the American Academy of General Practice and the Association of American Medical Colleges.

The suggested program would include a basic minimum of 18 months' hospital training in the diagnostic, therapeutic, psychiatric, preventive and rehabilitative aspects of medicine and pediatrics in a very broad sense, including care of the newborn. A physician then could elect to spend the remaining six months for additional training in other segments of the program. The committee stated, however, that participants who plan to practice obstetrics would be expected to spend at least four months of the elective period in obstetrical training.

The report declared that "the graduate program of two years in preparation for family practice should be planned and implemented as a unified whole" with a maximum continuity of assignment in specific services. The program also calls for adequate experience in outpatient care and emergency room service.

Social Security

In considering five resolutions on the subject of compulsory Social Security coverage for self-employed physicians, the House disapproved of four and adopted one reaffirming its opposition to the

compulsory inclusion of physicians. In so doing, the delegates expressed concern over the possible effects that a change of policy might have on the Association's entire legislative program, particularly with respect to the Forand Bill.

The House also recognized "the apparent growing demand by physicians for economic security" and requested the Board of Trustees to investigate the possibilities of developing group insurance and retirement plans which could be made available to Association members. It accepted a reference committee suggestion "that the American Medical Association continue and expand its educational program to inform its members of the economic, social and moral advantages of economic security obtained within the framework of our free enterprise system rather than through the mechanisms of governmental Social Security."

Miscellaneous Actions

In dealing with a wide variety of other subjects, the House also:

- Urged all physicians to participate more fully in community activities and *socio-economic matters* in their own communities but agreed that no change should be made at this time in Article II of the Constitution, which states Association objectives;
- Approved in principle the aims and objectives of the President's Council on *Youth Fitness* and the Citizens Advisory Committee on the Fitness of American Youth;
- Requested the Board of Trustees to study the problems and possibilities of establishing an A.M.A.-sponsored *medical scholarship* and/or loan program;
- Approved the inclusion of *Today's Health* as a benefit of dues-paying membership and urged members to make it available to their patients;
- Recommended that state medical societies, where advisable, initiate legislative efforts to eliminate *cancer quackery*;
- Received a progress report indicating "phenomenal progress" in the field of health insurance coverage for *the aged* since the Minneapolis meeting last December;
- Gave a rising vote of thanks to *Dr. Joseph D. McCarthy*, who finished his term as chairman of the Council on Medical Service;
- Reaffirmed its full support of the Educational Council for *Foreign Medical Graduates*;
- Endorsed the purposes outlined in the initial report of the *Medical Disciplinary Committee*;
- Urged every A.M.A. member to give a substantial gift to the *medical schools* through the American Medical Education Foundation; and
- Expressed appreciation for the outstanding

disaster medicine program presented by the United States Army Medical Service on June 6, 1959, in Atlantic City.

Opening Session

At the Monday opening session Dr. Gunnar Gundersen of La Crosse, Wis., retiring A.M.A. president, stressed the personal responsibility of every physician to keep abreast of medical advancements and to deliver "1959 medicine." Dr. Orr, then president-elect, called for concerted effort and medical leadership in four areas—the costs of medical care, recruitment of dedicated medical students, basic research and health care of the aged. Drs. Carl V. Moore, Busch professor of medicine at Washington University, St. Louis, was presented with the eighth Goldberger Award in clinical nutrition. Smith, Kline and French Laboratories of Philadelphia received a special A.M.A. award for its sponsorship of color medical television over the past ten years.

Inaugural Ceremony

Dr. Orr, in his Tuesday night inaugural address, affirmed his belief in the basic principles of medicine, democracy and faith under which America's physicians live. He pointed out that freedom must continually be fought for by men and women who are willing to stand up and be counted. Dr. Leonard Larson of Bismarck, N. D., A.M.A. board chairman, administered the oath of office to Dr. Orr, and the latter presented the Distinguished Service Award to Dr. DeBakey. The Fort Dix Band Chorus presented the musical program.

Election of Officers

In addition to Dr. Askey, the new president-elect, the following officers were selected at the Thursday session:

Vice-president, Dr. James Stanley Kenney of New York City; speaker of the House of Delegates, Dr. Norman A. Welch of Boston, and vice-speaker, Dr. Milford O. Rouse of Dallas.

Dr. R. B. Robins of Camden, Ark., and Dr. Hugh H. Hussey, Jr. of Washington, D. C., were reelected for five-year terms on the Board of Trustees. Also elected to the board, for the first time, was Dr. Percy E. Hopkins of Chicago.

Dr. J. M. Hutcheson of Richmond, Va., was reelected to the Judicial Council. Reelected to the Council on Medical Education and Hospitals were Dr. Charles T. Stone, Sr. of Galveston, and Dr. W. Andrew Bunten of Cheyenne.

Dr. Willard Wright of Williston, N. D., was elected, and Dr. J. Lafe Ludwig of Los Angeles was reelected to the Council on Medical Service. (Subsequently he was elected chairman.) Dr. William Hyland of Grand Rapids, Mich., was reelected to the Council on Constitution and By-Laws.